



Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Value of Arizona Adult Education

Arizona Adult Education provides comprehensive literacy services to adults to improve their standard of living and expand their contributions to the community and the state.

What is Adult Education?

Adult Education is authorized under Title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, also known as the Adult and Family Literacy Act, and Arizona Revised Statute 15-234.

Arizona Adult Education provides comprehensive literacy services to learners 16 years of age and older, not enrolled in a K – 12 school. Instruction can include:

- Adult Basic Education - reading, writing and math through the 8th grade level
- Adult Secondary Education and GED Test Preparation
- English Language Acquisition for Adults (ELAA)
- Citizenship Test Preparation
- Workplace literacy classes that are customized to meet the specific needs of a business or industry
- Instruction delivered in the context of parenting, civics, the workforce, finances, and health



Adult Education providers are funded by the Arizona Department of Education through a competitive, rigorous process. Eligible providers include local education agencies, community colleges, and community-based organizations. Funding is based upon the provider's ability to deliver extraordinary educational services and a demonstrated record of producing learners who meet their academic and employment goals. Providers designated to receive funding must:

- Deliver instruction based upon Arizona's Adult Education Standards, among the most rigorous in the nation
- Report learner outcomes through Arizona's unsurpassed web-based software system
- Provide instruction that demonstrates research-based best practices
- Participate in continual program improvement processes and ongoing professional development

The Need for Adult Education in Arizona

In Arizona 819,500* adults (20.4%) do not have a high school diploma or GED. Four percent, or 246,168* adults, cannot communicate effectively in the English language.

There is a direct relationship between low literacy levels and unemployment and poverty. **Almost 90% of adults enrolled in Arizona Adult Education read below the 9th grade level.**

Many parents lack the skills necessary to help their children succeed in school. **The greatest predictor of a child's success in school is the education level of the parent.**

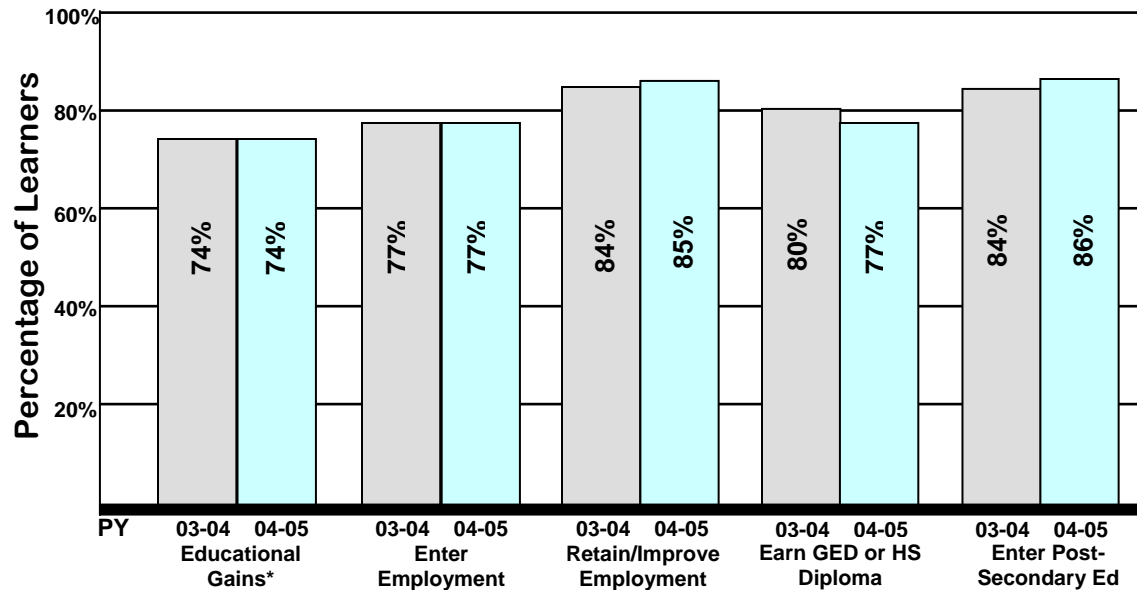
*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Outcomes of Adult Education for Program Year 2004 - 2005

Only 36 programs statewide met the rigorous requirements to receive funding. They provided over 900 classes in locations across Arizona.

- Over 32,000 learners were served with over 2.4 million instructional hours. These included:
 - 14,544 English language learners
 - 11,205 adult basic education learners
 - 1,132 adult secondary education learners
 - 5,281 learners between the ages of 16 and 21
 - Over 6,000 learners receiving intake, assessment and referral to GED testing or workforce preparation/employment services
- 74% of adult learners who were pre- and post-tested advanced 2 or more grade levels
- 77% of adults who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 77% of adults who sought a job found employment
- 85% of adult learners who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 86% of adult learners who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

Arizona Adult Education Outcomes



Outcomes of Adult Learners Based on Identified Goals

*Educational Gain = increase of approximately 2.3 grade levels

**\$460 annual cost per Adult Education student
(Compare to \$6,000+ annual cost per K – 12 student)**

819,500 adults (20% of the population) do not have a high school diploma or a GED



Total adult population in Arizona

Annually, over one-quarter of all high school diplomas issued in Arizona are earned through GED testing



Total number of diplomas issued in Arizona